

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 22, as follows:

The fuel supplier of the invention may be configured to further include a shutter control member that allows the shutter member to slide on the surface of the fuel permeable film such that the exposed area of the fuel permeable film is controlled. In the structure with the slidable shutter member slidably provided on the surface of the fuel permeable film, the degree of shielding of the surface of the fuel permeable film can be controlled with the shutter member.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 16 as follows:

The fuel 124 is supplied to the fuel vessel 811 through the fuel passage 719. The fuel [[are]] is allowed to flow along a plurality of partition plates 853 provided in the fuel vessel 811 and sequentially supplied to the plurality of unit cell structures 101. The fuel is circulated in a plurality of the unit cell structures 101 and then collected into the fuel vessel 713 through the fuel passage 721. The configuration of the unit cell structure 101 is described in detail later.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 19, as follows:

The fuel cell of this embodiment is according to the fifth embodiment and further includes columns 749 and 751 and an elastic member 753. The column 749 is fixed on a predetermined position of the partition wall 741, while the column 751 is slidably provided slidable on the partition wall 741 and coupled to the end of the shutter 739.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 4, as follows:

The permeation control film 717 shown in Figs. 21A and 21B includes a laminated film of an elastic sheet 777 and a fuel permeable film 745. The elastic sheet 777 has a cut portion 779, which is opened by pulling the sheet 777 in the horizontal direction to the sheet as shown

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in the drawing. Using the elastic sheet 777 as the permeation control film 717, the opening area of the cut portion 779 can be adjusted by modulating the strength of pulling the elastic sheet 777 in its plane direction. Thus, the transmission of the high-concentration fuel 725 from the high-concentration fuel vessel 715 to the fuel vessel 713 can be controlled.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 17, as follows:

The permeation control film 717 as shown in Figs. 22A and 22B includes a laminated film of a sheet 781 and a fuel permeable film 745. An elastic part 783 is formed on a part of the sheet. The elastic part 783 has a cut portion 785. The elastic part 783 shrinks when current is run through it, and thus the opening area of the cut portion 785 is increased by the shrinkage.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 40, line 21, as follows:

In this example, a fuel cell having the structure of Fig. 6 was prepared and evaluated for change in cell voltage over time. In the fuel cell with the structure of Fig. 6, the fuel vessel 713 was filled with 60 ml of an aqueous 10% by volume methanol solution, while the high-concentration fuel vessel 715 was filled with an aqueous 50% by volume methanol solution. The permeation control film 717 was in the form of the permeation control shutter-film 735 composed of a stainless metal mesh coated with Nafion (registered trademark). The permeation control film 735 was attached to a Nafion 177 film serving as the fuel permeable film 745. The aqueous methanol solution was supplied from the fuel vessel 713 at a rate of 15 ml/min, while the same test was conducted as in the example. Oxygen in air was used for the oxidant electrode 108.

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